

END OF SESSION UPDATE FROM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JASON DOUCETTE

PROUDLY SERVING MANCHESTER AND GLASTONBURY
CHAIR OF THE BANKING COMMITTEE

Dear Neighbor,

It has truly been an honor to represent you as your state representative in 2021. The pandemic produced numerous challenges, but despite those challenges it was a productive legislative session. Included in this newsletter are a few of the bills which passed this session that I think are of particular interest to Manchester and Glastonbury.

I worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education. I have fought to ensure Manchester and Glastonbury will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that these investments will help our community recover and thrive in the future.

Finally, I know that increased crime in our communities is of high concern this summer. This is something I am working hard on and while no single magic solution will make these crimes stop immediately, it is my hope that swift and thoughtful action can begin to have an impact.

My focus moving forward continues to be creating economic opportunity for all, improving educational outcomes, and working on solutions to Connecticut's fiscal challenges. I encourage you to reach out with questions, comments or suggestions follow me on social media and sign up for e-mail updates for the most current information on what's happening in state government. I am happy to meet or talk at any time.

Best,



Jason Doucette



www.facebook.com/RepDoucette



www.twitter.com/Doucette13th



Jason.Doucette@cga.ct.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | CHAIR OF THE BANKING COMMITTEE

JASON DOUCETTE

PROUDLY SERVING MANCHESTER AND GLASTONBURY



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2021**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JASON DOUCETTE
PROUDLY SERVING MANCHESTER AND GLASTONBURY
CHAIR OF THE BANKING COMMITTEE



Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 860-240-8500 | 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Doucette



END OF SESSION UPDATE FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JASON DOUCETTE

LEADING THE BANKING COMMITTEE

I am proud to serve as House Chair of the legislature's Banking Committee where we had a productive session. Some highlights:

- We passed a comprehensive foreclosure relief bill to extend the state's successful foreclosure mediation program, establish a lien assistance program and expand the state's existing Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. (PA 21-44)
- With increasing costs of higher education, we passed legislation to strengthen Connecticut's regulation of student loan servicers (PA 21-130) and create a program which would provide teachers employed in our alliance districts (including Manchester) with access to low interest student loans. (PA 21-62)
- We moved to make home buying more affordable by expanding access to loan programs and created affordable housing incentive zones. (PA 21-101)

GROWING CT'S ECONOMY

- Expanded the Small Business Express Program to help more local businesses grow. (HB 6467)
- Leading the country with Equitable Broadband. (HB 6442)
- Taking Care of CT's restaurants by creating a tax-free day for restaurants (SB 1202), cutting red tape to make outdoor dining a permanent option for bars and restaurants and continuing alcohol to-go and delivery sales. (PA 21-37)
- Followed the lead of other states to legalize and responsibly regulate sports betting and recreational cannabis. (SB 1202)

EXPANDING VOTING ACCESS

Voting is the foundation of democracy. This year, the General Assembly voted to allow two ballot referenda to decide in 2022 if we should have early, in-person voting and in 2024 decide if every registered voter in CT should be able to vote by absentee ballot. (RA 21-1 and RA 21-2)

A BUDGET THAT WORKS FOR FAMILIES AND CONNECTICUT

The 2021 biennial budget increases funding to cities and towns, as well as to hospitals and local health departments to ensure that they have the tools to combat the next public health emergency. It provides vital funding and tools for state agencies to reopen and serve Connecticut's residents in a way that is safe and efficient. It also expands healthcare for 40,000 residents and families, expands workforce training so that we can get people back to work, and fully funds debt-free community college. Locally, our towns did well this year in the state budget we passed, with both Manchester and Glastonbury seeing year over year increases in state aid.



A BUDGET FOCUSED ON



WORKING FAMILIES



TOWNS & CITIES



NONPROFITS

CT BUDGET 2021

Perhaps most significant is the fact there are NO tax increases in this budget. In fact, the budget provides real tax relief to individuals and businesses by doing the following:

- Increasing the state's earned income tax credit to 30.5% of the federal credit, providing thousands of families across Connecticut additional money in their pockets.
- Expanding tax exemptions for retirement income.
- Allowing restaurants and bars to keep a portion of the tax collected from the sale of food and beverages.
- Restoring the Research and Development tax credit.

Finally, a few new bond authorizations worth highlighting:

- \$5M I proposed for advanced manufacturing education programs in the comprehensive high schools statewide. Hoping to eventually help bring some of these funds home to Manchester – stay tuned!
- \$2M I proposed for open space funds in Glastonbury. These funds can be used to reimburse the town for funds used to purchase the MDC property.
- Crumbling Foundations program (CFSIC) fully funded.
- The new Community Investment Fund authorizes up to \$875 million for projects in Alliance Districts like Manchester.

I am proud of the hard work we put in to create a balanced budget that keeps our state moving forward with support for working and middle-class families.

PUTTING CONNECTICUT FAMILIES FIRST

- Provided further relief and assistance for homeowners with crumbling foundations by extending the life of the captive insurance company, requiring annual reports from quarries, and developing concrete standards. (PA 21-120)
- Extended telehealth benefits for Connecticut residents for the next two years. Individuals in the state will continue to have access to in-depth healthcare from the comfort of their homes as we transition out of the pandemic. (PA 21-133 & PA 21-9)
- Helping our children recover from this pandemic through expanding youth suicide prevention training, creating more outpatient services and requiring social emotional learning to be part of teachers' professional development. (PA 21-46)
- Expanded workers' compensation benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. (PA 21-107)
- Strengthened protections for domestic violence victims and survivors. (PA 21-78)



STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

- Strengthened rights for residents of long-term care facilities and ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring by loved ones (PA 21-55), and reformed nursing home staffing, policies, supply inventories in response to COVID-19. (SB 1030)
- Fought age discrimination in the workplace by limiting the need for your age and other dates on job applications. (PA 21-69)

A GREENER CT

- Raised bottle deposits to 10 cents, applied deposits to more products and provided more money to towns and redemption centers to ensure these products don't wind up as litter or in a landfill. (PA 21-58)
- Regulated the harmful chemical "PFAS". (SB 837)